

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC

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UNCLAS HONG KONG 4361

USIAC

USIA FOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY - FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB

1. THE HONG KONG FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB WILL CELEBRATE ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN HONG KONG THIS JUNE. IT IS THE SUCCESSOR TO THE CLUB WHICH WAS ORGANIZED IN CHUNGKING DURING WORLD WAR II AND WHICH LATER MOVED TO SHANGHAI. AMONG ITS CORRESPONDENT MEMBERS ARE SOME OF THE BEST KNOWN NAMES IN JOURNALISM. BOTH THE CONSULATE GENERAL AND USIS PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED WITH THE MEMBERSHIP. THE CLUB'S LEADERSHIP HAS ASKED USIS TO ASSIST IT IN PREPARING SPECIAL PROGRAMS DURING THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

2. USIS HAS BEEN DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF A VIDEOTAPE PLUS ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE. THE PARTICIPANTS COULD INCLUDE SOME OF THE CLUB'S MORE FAMOUS PAST MEMBERS WHO ARE NOW IN THE UNITED STATES, SUCH AS THEODORE WHITE, WHO WAS IT'S FIRST PRESIDENT IN CHUNGKING, LEE LESCAZE, STAN KARNOW, BERNARD KALB AND SEYMOUR TOPPING, TO NAME SOME BUT NOT ALL. ALSO RECOMMEND YOU CONSIDER NON-AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS WHO SERVED IN HONG KONG AND NOW BASED IN WASHINGTON, E.G. ROLAND DALLAS OF REUTERS. BOTH THE CLUB AND USIS AGREE THAT THE PARTICIPATION IN THE VIDEOTAPE OF SOME KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD HELP TO DEMONSTRATE OFFICIAL INTEREST AND APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK THE CLUB'S MEMBERS HAVE DONE OVER THE YEARS.

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3. HANK MILLER, KNOWN TO MEMBERS HERE AND IN THE UNITED STATES, IS PROBABLY THE BEST PERSON IN USIA TO HELP COORDINATE THE "TALENT HUNT."

4. WE ALSO REQUEST DAVE SHEPPARD, WHO KNEW SOME OF THE MEMBERS DURING HIS INDO-CHINA ASSIGNMENTS, APPLY HIS TALENTS TO THE VTR PRODUCTION.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE AGENCY REACTION AND SUGGESTIONS.

IZENBERG

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